



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 1269**

January Session, 2007

\* SB01269JUDAPP041007 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALITY OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION  
OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN JUVENILE MATTERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Commission on  
2 Child Protection shall establish the compensation rate for attorneys  
3 providing legal services and serving as guardians ad litem pursuant to  
4 section 46b-123d of the general statutes, which rate shall not be less  
5 than sixty dollars per hour.

6 (b) The Commission on Child Protection shall establish the  
7 compensation rate for nonattorney professionals employed by not-for-  
8 profit legal services agencies, individual attorneys or private law firms  
9 under contract with the Chief Child Protection Attorney pursuant to  
10 section 46b-123d of the general statutes who render professional  
11 services related to representation provided by such agencies, attorneys  
12 or law firms pursuant to said section, which rate shall be less than sixty  
13 dollars per hour. For the purposes of this subsection, "nonattorney  
14 professionals" includes, but is not limited to, paralegals, social  
15 workers, education advocates and health practitioners.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Chief Child Protection  
17 Attorney appointed under section 46b-123c of the general statutes shall  
18 establish a comprehensive program to provide mandatory initial and  
19 in-service training for attorneys providing legal services and serving as

20 guardians ad litem pursuant to section 46b-123d of the general  
21 statutes.

22 (b) The Chief Child Protection Attorney shall oversee and ensure the  
23 accountability of attorneys providing legal services and serving as  
24 guardians ad litem pursuant to section 46b-123d of the general  
25 statutes, and shall investigate and resolve any complaint regarding an  
26 attorney who has entered into a contract pursuant to said section.

27 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Chief Child Protection Attorney  
28 appointed under section 46b-123c of the general statutes shall establish  
29 a pilot program to provide legal services to children and indigent legal  
30 parties in juvenile matters using a multidisciplinary agency model of  
31 legal representation. The Chief Child Protection Attorney shall conduct  
32 the program in an urban district of the superior court for juvenile  
33 matters and a nonurban district of the superior court for juvenile  
34 matters.

35 (b) The Chief Child Protection Attorney shall establish a pilot  
36 program for the forgiveness of law school loans for attorneys who  
37 commit to the full-time practice of law in the field of child protection.

38 (c) The Chief Child Protection Attorney shall contract with an  
39 independent evaluator to assess the effectiveness of the pilot programs  
40 established pursuant to this section in improving the quality of legal  
41 representation and the well-being of children referred to the  
42 Department of Children and Families for abuse or neglect. On or  
43 before January 1, 2009, the Chief Child Protection Attorney shall  
44 submit a report concerning the implementation and effectiveness of  
45 such pilot programs to the joint standing committee of the General  
46 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and  
47 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
48 matters relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of  
49 section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such pilot programs shall  
50 terminate not later than June 30, 2009.

51 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The sum of four hundred eighty-one

52 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Commission on Child  
53 Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
54 2008, for personal services.

55 (b) The sum of four hundred eighty-one thousand dollars is  
56 appropriated to the Commission on Child Protection, from the General  
57 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for personal services.

58 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The sum of thirteen million nine  
59 hundred forty-four dollars is appropriated to the Commission on  
60 Child Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending  
61 June 30, 2008, for contracted attorneys, family matters attorneys and  
62 associated administration expenses.

63 (b) The sum of thirteen million nine hundred forty-four dollars is  
64 appropriated to the Commission on Child Protection, from the General  
65 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for contracted attorneys,  
66 family matters attorneys and associated administration expenses.

67 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The sum of one million six hundred  
68 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Commission on Child  
69 Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
70 2008, for the pilot program to provide legal services using a  
71 multidisciplinary agency model of legal representation established  
72 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 3 of this act.

73 (b) The sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars is  
74 appropriated to the Commission on Child Protection, from the General  
75 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the pilot program to  
76 provide legal services using a multidisciplinary agency model of legal  
77 representation established pursuant to subsection (a) of section 3 of  
78 this act.

79 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The sum of five hundred thousand  
80 dollars is appropriated to the Commission on Child Protection, from  
81 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the pilot  
82 program for the forgiveness of law school loans established pursuant

83 to subsection (b) of section 3 of this act.

84 (b) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to the  
 85 Commission on Child Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal  
 86 year ending June 30, 2009, for the pilot program for the forgiveness of  
 87 law school loans established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 3 of  
 88 this act.

89 Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The sum of fifty thousand dollars is  
 90 appropriated to the Commission on Child Protection, from the General  
 91 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for initial and in-service  
 92 training for attorneys providing legal services pursuant to section 46b-  
 93 123d of the general statutes.

94 (b) The sum of fifty thousand dollars is appropriated to the  
 95 Commission on Child Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal  
 96 year ending June 30, 2009, for initial and in-service training for  
 97 attorneys providing legal services pursuant to section 46b-123d of the  
 98 general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

**JUD**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

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